SHAKER COLLECTION

Item 126

"Mother Ann's Staff of Love, and Remembrance, . . ."

Mother Ann's Staff of Love and Remembrance to all her first Born, Children upon Earth.

Written by Inspiration,

October 31st 1840.

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The following is a communication made by Mother Ann, the forepart of which is addressed to the middle aged and rising generation; the latter part to all her first born children delivered by Inspiration, in the presence of both orders of the Church on Sabbath Afternoon the 18th of October, and written by Inspiration on the 31st of the same month. A. D. 1840.

Beloved Elders, Mother

Ann and all the rest of our Heavenly Parents are here. And Mother says if the beloved Elders feel union she has a few words to speak to all the middle aged and young. The Elders readily assented, and the speaker proceeded.

O that my children (says Mother) could know and sense, in truth the importance of well improving the day in which they live! the importance of

walking in the true fear of God, and possessing a heart filled with gratitude and thankfulness for every gift and blessing that God, in his great condescension and loving kindness, has been pleased, through us, to bestow upon you whom he hath called, to be bright shining examples of purity and holiness to the nations of the Earth.

Yea, (says Mother,) truly

great very great is the respons-
ibility that rests upon each,
and every one of you. I
do entreat you, my beloved
children, ([redacted]) to be
prudent and saving of the
many yea the very many
precious gifts of God which
we have conveyed to you,
that a further planting of
the gospel of Christ might
be effected in your souls.
For I say unto all the mid-
dle aged and rising gen-
eration, ([redacted],) that

for the use ye have made,
and may hereafter make,
even of the very least of these
holy and sacred things,
which we have given you,
God will require a strict ac-
count at your hand.

Therefore I say unto all,
be ye saving and prudent;
for the very least of these
crumbs will yet become
the most precious morsels
in your mouths. When
days and years of heavy
and deep tribulation roll
on from every hand and
side, and clouds of thick

darkness hang over you,
then would your hearts
gladly bow in tears of grat-
itude and thankfulness
to God, and to your Heav-
enly Parents, if you could
but obtain one of the least
of these crumbs, as they are
now given in this day where
in you all do now live.

A day of which the spirit-
ual avenues of communica-
tion, between those in time
and those in Eternity have
been opened thro the lov-
ing kindness of God, your
Heavenly Father according

to his own will and wisdom.
A day in which the
food of Angels is poured
down from the windows
of heaven, in showers
of great abundance upon you. And all you
who are wise, (s[redacted],)
will lay up stores of these
precious gifts of God, now
in day of plenty; that ye
may have where withal
to clothe, and feed your-
selves, yea, and to give
to others, (as those before
you have given to you,)
thro' thro the days and

years of mourning and deep tribulation, which my first born children have been passing. Yea, (says Mother,) they have freely nourished and fed you that you might not faint ~~and fall~~ by the way. And this they have done from that store and substance of good they received from our hands when we were upon Earth (~~says Mother~~,) which day was unto them as this day is unto you my beloved young Brethren and Sisters.

A day in which you are
called to plant your
feet upon that immor-
tal foundation which
God hath laid, and which
never will be overthrown.
That ye may stand un-
shaken thro storms of
persecution, and days of
great darkness and deep
tribulation. As those be-
fore you have stood; so
must you in like man-
ner stand, or ye can in
no wise fulfill the order
of your calling, ([redacted].)

And these days must come upon you that your faith may be tried. And those that abide shall be washed clean and pure in the furnace of tribulation.

For God will surely visit the Earth, and the inhabitants there of with a heavy hand of judgement, for the awful abominations which they have commited thereon. And the power and spirit of the serpent, will be aroused and engaged in malice to per-

secute the true worshipers of God. But all such of you as have wisely, and faithfully improved the time and day which God hath given you, to clothe your souls with the garment of righteousness, shall safely dwell beneath his Almighty hand of protection says Mother Ann.

Now beloved Elders with your union, (says Mother,) I have a few words of truth peace and consola-

tion, to impart to all my first born children that are yet remaining with you, and it is my desire that they would all draw near, that they may understand my words. [The aged Brethren and Sisters then came forward and stood in front of the meeting, and Mother proceeded.]

Hearken unto my voice, O my dearly beloved children! (says your blessed Mother (Ann.) At my face, while I was upon earth,

did you receive, (together with the rest of your cross-bearing companions who are now gathered home, to rest from their labours on earth) a sure and stedfast planting in the gospel of Christ's second coming; which you believed, (as I taught you [illegible]) was without sin unto salvation, leaving no room for the indulgance of any part of a fallen corrupt nature of the flesh. I say (as [illegible]) you embraced

it with full purpose of heart,
that this was the requirement
of God. And this you
was enabled to do, without
doughting; because you
believed in what you
were taught by those
whom God had appointed,
and anointed, with power
to open the door of full sal
vation to fallen man.
And often did, I with
the rest of your beloved
Elders (says Mother) exhort
and encouraged you to per
severe on, and abide faithful

to the end of your days; for the time would surely come, that this gospel would greatly increase among the children of men, and by your faithful and cross bearing perseverance to continue your travel in the road which you had begun; that the light thereof would be greatly extended, and that the time would come when the branches would flourish and bend with precious fruit, that all might know the root

thereof was holy.

But you that embraced the gospel when I first proclaimed it in this land, ([redacted]) and are yet remaining upon earth, have passed thro many dark, and adverse scenes; yea, and in days and years of tribulation have you waded, almost despairing of ever seeing this my gospel flourish, and bring forth fruit to Gods acceptance in those that were called after we had left the earth. And in the

days of this darkness, in which the power of evil was busily at work, blending and seeking to blend his benighted influence with my pure and holy gospel; bringing in the forms and fashions of the children of this world and with al partaking of their spirits, opening the door of ease, and indulgence, and labouring more to appear popular in the eyes of the world, than to posess my gospel in its purity did your spirits my beloved first born,

mourn and weep with me
and I with you [illegible]

For in a great part
a portion of those that came
after you, did you, with me,
behold the true principles
of this gospel held only as
matters of secondary im-
portance to them; and
in these days did your
souls, my dearly beloved,
breathe forth in prayer to
me, that I would gather
you home from the scenes
of time to dwell with me in
Eternity where your spirits

would no longer be grieved with those passing and soul darkning scenes upon earth, which at times, appeared to be fast gaining influence among those that professed to be my children. But remember, my dearly beloved, I have mourned and wept with you, yea and I have united your prayers with mine, in humble supplication to God, our Heavenly Father, that he would open some door whereby Zion should be purged from her sins, and

that darkness which had gathered upon her. And you that are now remaining upon Earth have beheld with your eyes, the door which God, thro-us hath opened; and you have supported it with the strength of your whole heart and soul says Mother. And you have set a righteous Godly example, in partaking of these my precious gifts, tho-never so small, with hearts of gratitude, and thankfulness, replenished with the fear of God. And remember,

my beloved, that your strength and support with your godly example, has been that help and comfort to us, since the present work and manifestation began that tongue cannot relate. Altho this present work was not needed so much on your account, as on the account, of those who are middle aged, and young, for whom it was mostly designed, that they might have an opportunity to gain that planting in their own souls (if they would improve it which you gained while we were upon

Earth s~~ays~~ ~~Mother.~~) And
you have been patient to
wade thro tribulation, be-
aring with your spirits, and
by your examples, against that
body of darkness that was
striving to overshadow the
Zion of God upon earth.
Yea, says Mother, and ye
have fed the young of the
flock (as many as would
receive) with that same
food and support with
which we fed you when
we were with you upon
Earth. You have led them
gently by the hand, with com-

forting and cheering words of consolation, promising them, the time would come surely that the rays of gospel light and purity would brighten and enlighten their [redacted]th before them, giving them new courage to purs[redacted] the strait and narrow path, in this sin destroying gospel, untill they should reach the Kingdom of God, and gain the prize of salvation.

And now, my dearly beloved, your eyes behold the fulfilment of your promises, and the answer of your pray-

ers, as it respects the middle aged and rising generation, who have remained in obedience, according to your counsel; for surely there is no good thing withheld from our children on earth s[redacted] M[redacted]r, that will serve to encourage them in the pure way of God. And the blessing and strength that you my dearly beloved first born children has been of unspeakable worth to those of the middle aged and rising generation, whether they are sensible of it or not.

Therefore my beloved, be not anxious to leave this ~~this~~ world. Altho your bodies may become feeble, yet that substance of good which you have gaind imparts great strength, and affords much help to those who are of that age and class upon whom the burden must shortly fall.

Yea, says Mother, altho the most part of my first born have left all mortal things below, and are with me in Eternity, yet those few that are remaining on

Earth, shall be comforted
and supported at my hand.
For I will never forsake you,
my dearly beloved. For you
that have borne the cross
from the begining, and have
made my gospel the first
object of your pursuit, you
come the nighest to God,
and to me says Mother, and
ye are the peculiar objects of
my love, delight and pleas-
ure. Therefore, think not
my dear children, that you
are forgotten by your blessed
Mother, or by any that were
with her on Earth. And those

few of you that are remaining in an earthly tabernacle, are a great help, yea, strength and comfort to us, your Heavenly Parents, who are in Eternity [redacted]. Yea my beloved, you well know that we have been doing a great work with those that are called to succeed you in the gospel on earth; and we still have more to do, that they may be prepared, and enabled to stand and abide, and pass thro those days of tribulation which God hath purposed they shall sure-

by pass thro. And you my beloved, have been workers with us, from the begining, and you still are great help and comfort to us.

And our Everlasting blessing love and thanks are justly due to you says Mother, and these I give unto you to lean upon in your advanced age. For I want says Mother if you feel as tho- you could that the most part of my first born that are upon Earth should remain a little longer. Do you feel as tho- you could says

Mother. Do you feel as tho you could remain a little longer upon the earth and unite with us in tribulation? for we are certainly passing thro deep tribulation, says Mother, and if you my beloved, with the rest of the Church, and all wherever this may go, will unite in prayer to God, and drink this cup with us, we will be exceeding thankful: for this will be a great comfort to us s[illegible]. But this I will promise you, my dear children, that none of you,

shall be left upon earth to
witness the days, in which
shall be accomplished the
greatness of that tribulation,
in which God hath proposed
shall come in the days of those
upon whom the burden must
fall. For you my beloved,
passed those scenes of tribu
lation, when you first be
lieved my gospel; and God
does not require that you
should again pass thro them
on earth. But you shall
home to dwell with me, in
a peaceable mansion of

rest, which I have pre-
pared for you, my faith-
ful and obedient children.

The time is surely fast
approaching, says Mother,
when those days which
I spake of, while on Earth,
shall be accomplished.

The eyes of thousands and
thousands shall be turned
towards Zion, and great
multitudes shall flock
thereto, some for good and
some for evil. And great
will the bearing distress
and tribulation, which they

will unavoidably bring upon all my true children who are then upon Earth.

But God has purposed these sufferings for them and not for you, my dearly beloved. But you, with us must prepare and enable them to meet and go thro these sufferings; that they may be rightful and true heirs to that sacred and holy inheritance which they are called to possess.

And the days will surely come, that nations

and kingdoms will say,
who is safe on earth, save
those that stand in the
Zion of God, where sin
does not dwell, and blood
is not shed? Yea, says
Mother, these days are a
rolling swiftly on, in Gods
own time.

Now dearly beloved, receive
my Everlasting thanks, Love
and Blessing and of all those
that were Companions with me
in sufferings on Earth.

Not one of you, my dear
children, have I forgotten,

nay and never shall; for you are precious Jewels in your Fathers house, and in Mothers sight objects of her delight.

The middle aged and young says Mother, God does require, and we do require that they should highly prize every day that they are blest with your presence on earth, for in no other way can they receive the blessing with which they must be clothed, in order

to do the will of God.

So be of good cheer, my dearly beloved, for I will never forsake you, nor leave you; for ye are spirit of my spirit and that spirit unto me will shortly return. And whenever you read or have this read, says Mother, if you will hold out both hands and make a gentle bows, my Angels of Love shall stand before you, and put into your

hands the Love of all your Heavenly Parents, and take a portion, a good portion of Love right from your hearts, and bring unto me, says Mother, and sometimes I shall come and get it myself and give you mine.

Therefore receive this my Staff of Love, O my dearly beloved Children! and upon it you may lean while you are on

the earth, and it shall never grow old, nor cease to yield you support and comfort. And whenever you feel a desire you may invite all that have clean hands and pure hearts to partake with you. I have long had this my Staff of Love in store for you my first born on earth, who have been faithful thro tribulation untill the present day; but the time had not come

for me to give it unto
them in full untill
now. tho' I have briefly
spoken of it to those in
the Church, only. But
now beloved Ministry and
Elders, with your union
I send it forth, wishing
to have it put in the
form of a small pamhlet,
and given to the Elders
of each family where in
there are any of my first
born living; and for them
to see that it is read in
their meeting three a year,

so long as there shall be any of my first born living in that family, who believed when they saw my face, or the faces of those that suffered with me in tribulation on Earth. It is my desire that this should go to all my first born throout Lions habitations, as soon as it may be convenient if the beloved lead feel union, with this my Staff of Love and remembrance to them:

for I have prepared it with my own hand for them. And others may gain good from it says Mother Ann.

So farewell my dearly beloved; yet will I never forsake you; for they that have never forsaken me, God forbids that I, or any that were my Companions in sufferings on Earth should ever leave or forsake them.

1. So now, beloved Ones, 48.
When these few words you hear:

Remember I am nigh,
Your spirits I will cheer,
And when in sorrow deep
Your spirits are weighed down,
I, your kind loving Mother,
Close by you will be found.

2.

Yea, my aged lovely Ancients,
Are lovely in my sight,
With them I mean to tarry
For I love them with delight.
I'll make their path so easy
That they can walk along,
With cheerfulness and pleasure:
With the pure angelic throng.

3. Your Mother says dear children,
Look up to me and smile:
I never can forget ye you
But will stay with you awhile,
To comfort cheer and strengthen,
Your weary soulp along
Untill you arive in Heaven:
To join the holy throng.

4.
And there you shall be clad,
In Garments shining bright,
And receive the many treasures,
Which unto you I'll give.
A little while be patient,
Your trials will be o'er
And you will join your Mother,
Where we shall part no more.

A few words from the
Holy Saviour. 49.

Listen beloved, now unto me,
For here I'm conversing freely to thee
I'll comfort I'll strengthen your spirits along
For sure peace and comfort
To you does belong.

You've traveled with me,
In this blessed work,
And in it you surely
Have not been a shirk,
But faithfully have bore,
Your cross day by day
And gained a bright treasure
In the pure heavenly way.

And when you go
To your Mansion above,
You shall be filled
With heavenly Love,
And with Joy,
I'll receive you into my Arms:
And give you pure things;
That will your souls charm.

Main Contents of 123 & 124
same
Oct 31, 1840
same date for
both 125 & 126
but note diff
end contents –
(the Hymns)
WB